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Comparing the number of genera and species for half a dozen orders, the following interesting results are obtained:

	GENERA.		SPECIES.	
	<i>Coulter.</i>	<i>Gray.</i>	<i>Coulter.</i>	<i>Gray.</i>
Leguminosæ .....	20	35	143	98
Rosaceæ.....	26	18	65	72
Compositæ.....	83	85	357	288
Ericaceæ.....	10	28	19	67
Cyperaceæ.....	8	15	108	247
Gramineæ.....	48	66	129	168

As to the number of species common to the two regions, we have space for but a few comparisons. Taking a few of the orders as they occur at the beginning of the book, we obtain the following results, confining our comparisons to *native species* only, as in the previous cases:

	NUMBER OF SPECIES.		
	<i>In Coulter.</i>	<i>In Gray.</i>	<i>Common to both.</i>
Ranunculaceæ.....	57	54	24
Berberidaceæ.....	2	5	0
Nymphæaceæ.....	2	6	1
Papaveraceæ.....	2	2	0
Fumariaceæ.....	5	7	1
Cruciferae.....	63	46	17
Capparidaceæ.....	7	1	1
Violaceæ.....	9	17	5
Polygalaceæ.....	3	14	1

No better argument as to the need of this book can be made than that derived from this comparison, which indicates that not more than about one-third of the Rocky Mountain species are described in Gray's Manual.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

THE CATALOGUE OF LIZARDS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM, new edition, Vols. I and II.—This important work, by Dr. G. A. Boulenger, fills a desideratum in zoölogy which is of long standing. Previous to the publication of these volumes Dr. Boulenger had given us in the *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1884, p. 117, a synopsis of the families of existing Lacertilia, as understood by him. The classifications of Duméril and Bibron and of Gray, still generally in use, are regarded as unnatural, and the osteology and structure of the tongue as well as the presence or absence and structure of the dermal ossifications are put forward as characters of primary importance. In this respect Cope is largely but not entirely followed. Twenty families of *Lacertilia vera* are recognized, separated into three series, the first (Geconidæ, Eublepharidæ) with smooth tongue and the clavicle dilated and loop-shaped proximally; the second without the latter character, while

the third differs from the others in the scale-covered structure of the tongue. The *Amphisbænidae* are regarded as a degraded type of *Teiidae*, and are placed in the third subdivision, between that family and the *Lacertidae*. The chameleons alone form the suborder *Rhoptoglossa*. The *Uroplatidae* are discovered to differ from the *Gecconidae* in the proximally simple clavicles and other important characters; the *Scincoids* of Duméril and Bibron are scattered through several families, in accordance with the views of Cope; the remaining *Scincidae* corresponding to Cope's *Scincidae*, *Sepidae* and *Acontiidae*; the *Zonuridae* comprise the genera *Zonurus*, *Platysaurus* and *Chamaesaura*; while the *Anguidae* include Cope's *Anguidae* and *Gerrhonotidae*. He admits Cope's family *Aniellidae*, regarding it as a degraded form of *Anguidae*. A family *Gerrhosauridae* is established for *Gerrhosaurus*, which is placed near the *Scincidae*; the *Anelytropidae* are regarded a degraded type of the *Scincidae*, and the degraded genus *Dibamus* is, among the scale-tongued lizards, the equivalent of the *Aniellidae* in the smooth-tongued series.

Of this system it may be said that it is a great advance over any that has yet been adopted in any European country. There are, however, a good many important characters of the skeleton which have not been used by Dr. Boulenger, and which give ground for a further subdivision of the order *Lacertilia*. The affinities of the families cannot, in fact, be estimated without them. The form of the proötic bone is one of these, and the enclosure or non-enclosure of the olfactory lobes of the brain by the frontal bones is another. The mode of articulation of the occipital sclerotome presents important differences. Some of these characters divide his group second into groups of equal value with his groups I and III; and others indicate a greater difference between the *Amphisbænians* and the *Teiidae* than Dr. Boulenger admits. The composition of the *ramus mandibuli* affords important characters, so as to distinguish readily the *Anolidae* and *Acontiidae*, families not admitted by Boulenger.

This work is, however, the best we now have on the subject, and will give a great impetus to its study.

- A second preliminary paper is devoted to the geographical distribution of the *Lacertilia*. He notices the parallelism, first noticed by Wagler, between the *Agamidae* and *Lacertidae* of the old world and the *Iguanidae* and *Teiidae* of the new. The Central American fauna presents a greater variety of types than South America, as it has representatives of every one of the eleven Neogean families. A review of the distribution of types in the four generally accepted zoögeographical regions of the old world leads to the conclusion that these "regions" are not supported by the *Lacertilia*, which range also according to longitude rather than latitude.